



ANALYSIS OF XII STD. ENGLISH TEXTBOOK IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This paper is research based and is related to sustainable development. Sustainable development is very important concept which was presented by World Commission on Environment and Development in their 1987 report. It we want to make the world strong then the education for sustainable development is very important. Education for sustainable development makes students understand the importance of relationships, and everyone and everything is connected. Students need opportunities to become meaningfully and authentically engaged with community issues. Schools focusing on education for sustainable development can help create these opportunities. Schools can inculcate sustainability while teaching content by conducting various activities. In this paper the researchers tries to find out the hidden aspects of sustainability which are included in the English textbook of XII Standard and suggests some activities to inculcate sustainability.

Keywords: Sustainable development, Analysis, English textbook



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Introduction:

Great ideas are usually simple ideas. While the specific analysis of any important topic will necessarily involve complexity and subtlety, the fundamental concepts which underlie powerful paradigm of thought are usually relatively straightforward and easy to grasp. Education is a basic component of human development; it's the single most important means for empowerment and sustained improvement in all well being.

In 1987 the World Commission on Environment and Development sought to address the problem of conflicts between environment and development goals by formulating a definition of sustainable development.

Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.(World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987)

In the extensive discussion and use of the concept since then, there has been a growing

recognition of four essential aspects of sustainable development.

Economic- An economically sustainable system must be able to produce goods and services on a continuing basis, to maintain manageable levels of government and external debt, and to avoid extreme sectoral imbalances which damage agricultural or industrial production.

Environmental- An environmentally sustainable system must maintain a stable resource base, avoiding over-exploitation of renewable resource system or environmental sink functions, and depleting non-renewable resources only to the extent that investment is made in adequate substitutes. This includes maintenance of biodiversity, atmospheric stability, and other ecosystem functions not ordinarily classed as economic resources.

Social—A socially sustainable system must achieve fairness in distribution and opportunity, adequate provision of social services including health and education, gender equity, and political accountability and participation.

Cultural—A culturally sustainable system must inculcate the cultural of peace and non-violence. It emphasizes the importance of taking care of historical and cultural monuments and places.

There are some other aspects included in these four aspects such as value education, parent education, education ICT, education for equality of sexes etc.

The United Nations Decade of Education for sustainable Development (2005-2014) highlighted the vital role that education can and must play in the journey towards sustainable development. The following research will throw light on how education is playing role in developing sustainability among students through content which is prescribed in textbook.

Significance of the study—

The question pertains to educating today's students for an uncertain future and to face the complexity of future challenges to global sustainability. Education for sustainable development provides students with opportunities to identify relevant issues and work through the process of finding appropriate solutions. It is feasible to implement strategies that help students to observe the complex connections between local and global issues. Education for sustainable development contributes to developing student's abilities and confidence. Students learn to adapt to evolving complex situations and develop better systems thinking skills, problem solving skills and values for sustainable development, while understanding that sustainability is not just about the environment but primarily about the reconciliation between environmental sustainability and human development. Education for sustainable development

also helps students recognize interrelations and interconnections in ESD issues and positions, and to incorporate such perspective when solving problems and addressing issues. Students need opportunities to become meaningfully and authentically engaged with community issues. When students are offered meaningful and relevant learning opportunities, they become increasingly engaged, which often increases attendance and academic achievement.

Education system strives to make changes in teaching learning process, curriculum and textbooks. Textbook is an important tool in the hands of teacher to develop sustainability among students. Teachers, need to understand this and they need to analyze the content and find out the aspects of sustainable development and conduct the activities accordingly. The present study will help the teachers in doing so.

Statement of problem—

To analyze XII Std. English textbook in the perspective of sustainable development.

Operational Definitions—

Analysis- A systematic examination of content, by breaking it into aspects of sustainable development.

XII Std. English textbook--

A book prescribed by Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education for XII standard students who are learning English as a compulsory language.

Sustainable development—

It is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. It consists of aspects like social, economical, environmental, and cultural.

Objectives—

- 1) To analyze the English textbook of XII standard in the perspective of sustainable development.
- 2) To find out the aspects of sustainable development which have been given more Weightage in the textbook.
- 3) To find out the activities included in the XII standard English textbook to inculcate sustainability.

Assumptions—

- 1) Textbooks are helpful for parents, teachers and students.
- 2) Education for sustainable development aims to help people to develop the attitudes,

skills and knowledge to make decisions and to act upon decisions.

- 3) Books play an important role in inculcating sustainability among students.
- 4) Education for sustainable development plays a key role in promoting values, culture, awareness of environment, sensitivity to gender diversity and multidisciplinary approach.

Research questions—

- 1) Is textbook of XII Std. written from sustainability point of view?
- 2) Which aspects of sustainable development are reflected in the textbook of XII standard?
- 3) How can the textbook help teacher to inculcate sustainable development?

Scope—

This study is related to sustainable development and the English textbook of XII standard.

Limitations—

Conclusions of the study are depended on the content of the XII standard textbook.

Delimitations—

- 1) This study is limited to XII Standard English textbook of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education.
- 2) This study is limited to the aspects of sustainable development, such as social, economical, environmental and cultural.

Method of Research—

Document analysis method of research is used.

Tools of data collection—

English textbook of XII standard.

Analysis of XII Std. English Textbook In The Perspective of Sustainable Development

Sr. No.	Unit	Description	Aspect of sustainability
1	The Person I Am Looking For	The poet shows his deep love for values through the poem. He lists the qualities he would like to have in the person he is looking for. If someone has all those qualities, then he is most certainly an ideal person, the one the poet is looking for.	Social
2	A	This is a brief biographical	Social, Economical

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|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Two-Billion-Dollar Dream | sketch of Michael Dell, explaining his swift rise to success. It brings with it the message to aim high, work hard, and to try our best to realize our dreams. Dell was smart enough to judge what his customers required and how to fulfill these requirements. | |
| 3 | The Turning Point of My Life | This is a personal account by A. J. Cronin about how he, who was a doctor practicing in London, turned to writing when he was forced to take six months complete rest in the country. He used this time to write his first novel, which become a great success. We must conquer our own fears and weaknesses. | Social |
| 4 | To Be a Somebody, Remain a Nobody | This thought provoking write –up tells us why a person should remain humble even if he becomes successful and famous. We must not underestimate our capabilities and must strive to do as much as we can. | Social |
| 5 | I Ran Into A Stranger | This is a touching poem about a mother, who, though very polite towards strangers, is unnecessarily harsh to her own daughter at home. Realizing her mistake, she apologizes to her daughter and then the two declare their love for each other. | Social,
Environmental, |
| 6 | A Boy With A Mission | This is a heart-warming story about the secret efforts of a simple and innocent young boy to raise money for a purpose. He does not share his mission with anyone in the family. When he succeeds, he is triumphant and joyful. It gives message to save environment. | Economical,
Environmental |
| 7 | One Full, One Half | It is a story of special mother with a special child. She tells us how, after an initial mental struggle, she strove hard to bring a positive change in her son, Chaitanya. She then | Social |

		describes the changes in her own attitude, her happiness at her son's achievements, and her expectations from the world.	
8	Who Was The Happiest Of Them All?	This is an interesting short story told by a grandmother to a little girl with the moral that it is not just money or gold that makes one happy. True happiness comes from one's inner self.	Cultural, Social
9	Suburbs	The poet conveys the harsh realities of the middle-class, and their dreams. He celebrates both the virtues and the vices of the middle-class people who live in the suburbs.	Social, Economical
10	Where Have All The Birds Gone?	This is a description of the real- life experience of the narrator, with special reference to the birds which he has seen and made friends with in his childhood. He regrets the fact that his own children cannot have such wonderful experiences, for these birds have nearly vanished from his locality. He questions the reasons for their disappearance, and wonders at the effect it will have on the environment.	Environmental, Cultural
11	A Tale For Many Cities	This is an article written by an architect closely involved in the planning of Delhi. He tells us the 'dos and don'ts' of city planning. He also says that there will be only chaos if we don't plan properly, but if we plan well we can have charming and graceful cities.	Environmental, Economical
12	Aamachi Mumbai & I	This is a brief account of the writer's first experience of Mumbai, the sights which impressed her and her feelings towards the city.	Cultural, Social
13	Old Women	This is a sad, reflective poem showing how old women are not looked after by their near and dear ones, and abandoned to their fate.	Social,Cultural

14	Killed In Haridwar Stampede	The text is a news report giving information about a tragic event. It highlights the callous and negligent attitude of the administration. It also highlights the reforms that need to be put in place on an urgent basis for the two largest crowd-pullers –protests and pilgrimages.	Social, Cultural
15	A Yawning Divide	The writer tells us, in a humorous way, the characteristics and quirks of the early risers and the late birds. It also tells us the advantages of getting up early. The early risers can finish a lot of work when the mind and body are fresh.	Social
16	The Felling of The Banyan Tree	The poet expresses the anguish he felt at the felling of the banyan tree that stood near his ancestral house. He even remembers this beautiful and majestic tree long after he has left the place.	Environmental, Cultural
17	Towards Villages	Ideal This is an article which tells us how a government scheme was successful in converting poor and struggling villages into ideal villages that are worth living in. It also indirectly shows how, if we put our minds to it, even the most difficult problems facing the country today can be solved.	Economical, Social, Environmental
18	Under The Yoke	The narrator recounts his experiences as a school master in a small village. He then narrates an anecdote that shows the courage and determination of a village woman, who takes on a tough challenge.	Social, Cultural
19	Realization Of A Dream	This is a speech delivered by Shri Yashwantrao Chavan, the first Chief Minister of Maharashtra, on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the State of Maharashtra at the governor's residence in Mumbai, on 1 May 1960. He	Social, Cultural

			dreamt of a Maharashtra where there is equality, justice, nonviolence and patriotism, and there is brightness, happiness and prosperity all around.	
20	A Nation's Strength		In this poem, he attempts to convince the reader that the strength of a nation is not in its wealth or military might, but in its people.	Social
21	Audience Anant Pai	With	The text is an interview with Anant Pai, the Father of Indian Comics, who made reading such a pleasure for lakhs of children. This text explains dedication to work, pride in Indian heritage, perseverance in finding a publisher and a practical outlook to strike a correct balance between pleasing the reader and being honest in the presentation of the past.	Cultural, Social
22	India's Underclass Gets Upwardly Mobile		The writer compares the telephones that were used in his childhood and the cell phones that are used today, and how this cell phone revolution has made a difference and changed the face of India.	Economical, Social
23	Peace Is A Woman And A Mother		The poet compares a mother to peace. When there is a lot of injustice in the world, the mother can destroy all that is bad. Peace appeals to mankind saying that everyone must understand that peace is a woman, a mother, a creator, and nurturer, who does not want her children to die in senseless wars. She pleads with mankind to stop this death and destruction.	Environmental, Social
24	What Would It Be Like?		The writer dreams of a world without poverty, a world without third-class and fourth-class citizens. This would be a world we could all be proud to live in. Living in utter poverty is something terrible, and every effort must	Social

			be made by governments as well as individuals to strive for a poverty-free world.	
25	The Animal School: A Fable		This is a fable about a school organized by animals. The story tells us how the school encouraged mediocrity over excellence, and the outcome of this.	Social
26	Concrete Jungle		The poet highlights the demerits of rapid urbanization and ecological degradation. He conveys the frightening fact that soon the very existence of man is going to be lost in the concrete jungle.	Environmental, Social
27	Eco watch: "R" You Ready?		In this article he acquaints us with simple ways that we can follow to protect our planet. He believes that protecting the environment will make us both happy and safe.	Environmental, Social
28	World Population: View-Counterview		It is an extract from a newspaper, with a 'view' and a 'counterview' on the topic 'World population'. Reading the arguments helps us to understand both sides of the issue.	Environmental
29	Humans, Be Humane		The lesson talks about saving the environment is the need of the day.	Environmental
30	The Daisy		This extract is about protection of environment.	Environmental
31	The Girl With An Apple		It tells us that people always remember those who have done them a good turn, especially those who have given them hope in difficult situations. Even if they meet those many years later, the bond remains strong.	Social, Cultural

Weightage according to the aspects of sustainable development

Sr. No.	Aspects of Sustainable Development	Percentage
1	Social	77.42%
2	Economical	19.35%
3	Environmental	32.25%
4	Cultural	29.03%

Discussion about research questions--

- 1) English textbook of XII Std. is written from sustainability point of view because various aspects of sustainability are found in the content.
- 2) Social, environmental, cultural and economical aspects of sustainable development are reflected in the English textbook of XII Std.
- 3) Teachers can give examples regarding the aspects of Sustainable development while teaching the content and he can also conduct different activities to inculcate sustainable development.

Conclusions—

- 1) Content of the English textbook of XII Std. is prescribed according to the aspects of sustainable development.
- 2) The more Weightage is given to social aspect of social development in the English textbook of XII Std.
- 3) The following activities are included in the XII Std. English textbook to inculcate sustainability.
 - i) Prepare a project report about the success story of a personality like Steve Jobs, Bill Gates.
 - ii) The cleanliness drive arranged by your college was a grand success. Prepare a news item on the event.
 - iii) Write an article for your school magazine on the following topic: How I found my treasure trove of happiness.
 - iv) Life in cities is different from life in the suburbs. Prepare a poster highlighting the differences.
 - v) Write an article for your college magazine on 'Why should we save birds'
 - vi) Prepare a detailed action plan on the issue, 'The necessity of effective disaster planning'
 - vii) Collect as much information as possible about the Chipko Movement. Also collect pictures and write an appropriate slogan. Present it to your slogan.
 - viii) Visit the officials at the Gram Panchayat, Taluks Panchayat Samiti and other such organizations and collect information about government schemes being implemented for empowering farmers.
 - ix) Create an advertising on water conservation to be displayed on the college

notice board.

- x) Imagine you have organize a debate on the motion ‘Money solves all the problems of human beings’ Think of both sides of the issue and jot down points relevant to the issue.

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